FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 DECEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

IRNA announced that Iraqi warplanes "savagely" bombed Eslamabad-e Gharbi 22 December, killing over 100 civilians. Iraqi planes had also killed over 80 civilians in Bakhtaran the previous day, according to IRNA. Iranian artillery began shelling Iraqi industrial, economic, and military targets in response for the raid on residential areas in Bakhtaran, Tehran radio announced. However, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied that the Bakhtaran raid hit civilian areas, stressing that Iraqi aircraft attacked military bases and camps in the area. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio said the military air base at Bakhtaran was among the targets hit, asserting that two Iranian helicopters were destroyed on the ground. Iraqi planes also attacked a "very large" maritime target near the Iranian coast 20 December, according to an official statement carried by the radio.

Iraq's claim to have downed an Iranian F-14 over the Gulf 19 December was denied by an Iranian military source cited by IRNA. An Iraqi military spokesman likewise disputed Iran's claim that an Iraqi pilot defected to Iran in an Iraqi Sukhoy, according to INA. The spokesman pointed out that Iran's claim contradicted its own announcement in November that the same pilot was captured when his Sukhoy was shot down in a raid on Iran.

OPEC

According to a "press release" carried by OPECNA 20 December, the OPEC foreign ministers conference agreed to return to a fixed pricing system with a benchmark price of $18 per barrel effective 1 January 1987. To defend the benchmark price, OPEC agreed to reduce total production to 15.8 million b/d during the first and second quarters of 1987. The cut represents reductions of over 7 percent from the projected demand for OPEC oil during the two quarters, the statement said. According to figures cited by KUNA, in order to achieve the production level of 15.8 million b/d, a total reduction of 1.2 million b/d less than current production, most OPEC members will be required to cut their production by some 5 percent. However, Iran received a quota of 2.255 million b/d, a 2.68-percent cut. On the other hand, Iraq, which had been insisting on parity with Iran, was assigned a quota of 1.466 million b/d. In a 20 December statement cited by AFP, the Iraqi oil minister declared that his country dissociated itself from the agreement on the grounds that the production level assigned to Iraq was not based on "logical criteria" and that the common objective of increased OPEC revenue should not be attained at Iraq's "expense." Meanwhile, the Iranian oil minister praised the agreement in remarks to Tehran radio. The minister stated that if Saudi Arabia is unsuccessful in convincing Iraq to comply with its quota, Iran will call for an "extraordinary meeting" to expel Iraq from OPEC. A "responsible source" subsequently told SPA 21 December that the Saudi Government had made no commitment to persuade Iraq even though Saudi Arabia hoped that Iraq would take "appropriate action" to fix international oil prices.

Iran

Mediation on U.S. Hostages — Iranian mediation to secure the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon will only be effective if the United States meets the demands of Lebanese Muslims, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in remarks reported by IRNA. Reaffirming Iran's demand that the United States release frozen Iranian assets, he said that "only then" will Iran begin mediating to secure the U.S. hostages' release. He also announced that Iran will publish copies of the passports of those who accompanied Robert McFarlane to Tehran at an "appropriate" time and that it will release other documents on the affair "if necessary."

Relations with Sudan — Prime Minister Mir Hosayn Musavi and Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi witnessed the signing of a protocol on political, economic, and cultural relations 20 December, Tehran radio reported. In remarks cited by the radio, both ministers expressed satisfaction with the talks and emphasized the need to expand bilateral cooperation. Following his departure, Al-Mahdi told reporters that he presented an "integrated plan" to end the Iran-Iraq war, SUNA said. He also announced that Iran agreed to release all Sudanese prisoners and that Sudan's debt was renegotiated.

Chinese Delegation — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed the "bright" prospects for the continued expansion of Sino-Iranian relations in a 20 December meeting with visiting Chinese parliamentarian Geng Biao, IRNA reported. Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani also received the delegation 20 December, Tehran radio reported.

Lebanon

Commenting on the fighting between Syrian forces and gunmen in the northern city of Tripoli, a Syrian source cited by SANA said the clashes arose during a search for wanted persons who recently returned to Tripoli. The source said the matter was "over" after security forces located and "dealt with" the fugitives. However, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported further clashes in the city over the weekend and accused the Syrians of killing over 100 civilians. Beirut radio said 30 people were killed and 60 were wounded in the fighting 19 December.

As for the camps war, Beirut radio said 5 people were killed and 10 were injured in fighting around the Shatila camp 20 December, noting that the clashes were continuing the following day. In Tunis, PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi urged Libya and Algeria to use their good offices with the Syrians and Lebanese to end the camps war, AFP reported. In a 19 December statement cited by JANA, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi urged Lebanese youths to fight the "renegade"

Amal Movement but to avoid any clash with the forces of "fraternal" Syria.

Libya and Chad

Libya "has nothing to do with the conflict in Chad," according to a Foreign Liaison Bureau source cited by JANA 21 December. The source accused "hostile" circles, including the United States, of fueling the "fratricidal conflict" in Chad. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi warned the same day that Libya will use "all its might" to confront the threat to its southern border, Tripoli radio reported. Terming the United States and France "imperialists and criminals," Al-Qadhdhafi declared that Libya does not "countenance" their presence in Africa.

On the diplomatic front, JANA reported 21 December that GUNT Foreign Minister Facho Balaam briefed Foreign Liaison Secretary Kamil Hasan Mansur on the danger of "U.S.-French military intervention" and requested an increase in Libyan aid. In a 20 December meeting with the Soviet charge d'affaires in Tripoli, Balaam urged the USSR to "take a stand" on the "U.S.-French aggression," Tripoli radio reported.

Regarding military action in Chad, JANA reported 21 December that Hissein Habre's forces crossed the 16th parallel which had previously been the demarcation line between the opposing forces. A Chadian Government communique cited by AFP 21 December announced that 400 Libyans were killed in a counter offensive to reestablish control over Bardai, Wour, and Zouar in western Tibesti.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Husayn Tour — Jordanian King Husayn flew to Saudi Arabia where he and King Fahd held official talks 20 December, Amman radio reported. En route home 21 December, the Jordanian monarch stopped off in Kuwait to discuss issues of common concern with the Kuwaiti amir, according to KUNA.

Egyptian-Saudi Ties — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak noted the "strong ties" between Egypt and Saudi Arabia in a meeting with Prince Faysal ibn Fahd, chairman of the Arab Soccer Federation, MENA reported 21 December.

Pakistan

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq swore in Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's new 16-member federal cabinet 22 December, Karachi radio reported. Among those who retained their portfolios were the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, and interior. The previous cabinet resigned 20 December to give the prime minister greater latitude in dealing with the country's problems, Karachi radio announced. Meanwhile, life in troubled cities was gradually returning to normal, the radio said 19 December, noting that curfews in Karachi, Hyderabad, and Latifabad had been relaxed.

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Gandhi Against Gurkhaland, West Bengal Division

BK200318 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister has categorically ruled out the creation of a separate Gurkhaland or division of West Bengal. Addressing a public meeting at Darjeeling this afternoon, Mr Rajiv Gandhi announced that Nepalese citizens who came to India after the India-Nepal treaty of 1950 will not be given citizenship. He said those Nepalese who were living in India before the treaty are citizens of India for all practical purposes.

Referring to the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] movement in Darjeeling, Mr Gandhi said the movement is not antinational. But, he said, the CPI-M and GNLF are both indulging in violent activities. He alleged that though the center has given sufficient police force to West Bengal, the state government has failed to maintain law and order. He urged the state government to maintain law and order in Darjeeling at all costs and assured that the center will give all possible assistance. He asked the chief minister to open a dialogue with the hill people to solve their problems.

Mr Gandhi said the problems of Darjeeling hills is basically an economic one and the center is preparing a new strategy about the development of hill areas, including Darjeeling.

The prime minister has also recalled the role of Gurkha people in protecting the unity and integrity of the country. [passage omitted]

Rules Out Tripartite Meeting

BK201006 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 20 Dec 86

[text] The prime minister has said that the West Bengal government should initiate a dialogue with the Gurkha National Liberation Front [GNLF] to resolve the Gurkhaland issue. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking to newsmen at Libong helipad this morning at the end of his visit to Darjeeling.

The prime minister categorically ruled out any possibility of a tripartite meeting involving the state government, the GNLF, and the center. He said the center has nothing to do with the problem and it is the state government's responsibility.

Mr Gandhi reiterated that there is no question of any division of West Bengal or granting of regional autonomy to Darjeeling as recommended by the left front government. He also ruled out abrogation of any provision of the Indo-Nepal treaty of 1950. He expressed concern at the increasing violence in the hill areas and said this is a dangerous trend. During his current visit he had received complaints that members of some parties were indulging in violence while the police took no action. Mr Gandhi said the state government should make an effort to restore the confidence of the people.

Answering questions on Punjab, Mr Gandhi said it would not be wise to link up terrorism and the law and order situation with the transfer of Chandigarh. He said the transfer has not taken place because of the delay in identifying the areas which Haryana will get in lieu of Chandigarh. He said the center is in touch with the Barnala government and will soon reassess the situation in the state.

The prime minister is visiting Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar on the final day of his 3-day visit to West Bengal today.

2 Killed in Punjab; Curfew Imposed in Amritsar

BK200837 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were shot dead and one seriously injured in two separate incidents in Gurdaspur District last night. In one incident, two suspect terrorists shot dead a personal assistant of a former minister, Mr Nirmal Singh Kahlon, and seriously injured another person in a village in Dehra Baba Nanak sector. In the other incident, five unidentified gunmen (?smothered) the caretaker of a religious place.

Meanwhile, indefinite curfew has been clamped in Amritsar City since this morning. This is in view of the tension in the city following the killing of the schoolgoing son of a police inspector.

The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has called a joint meeting of all ministers, MP's, MLA's [Members of the Legislative Assembly], district party presidents and members of the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak — Sikh temple management — Committee] on Tuesday. This is to discuss the political situation and party affairs.

Curfew Lifted

BK201632 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, the curfew imposed in Amritsar from 0800 this morning in the walled city area and Circular Road, was lifted at 1700 in the evening. It was imposed as a precautionary measure in view of the bundh [strike] call given by some organizations to protest against the killing of the school-going son of a police inspector yesterday.

New Cabinet Sworn In by Ziaul Haq 22 Dec

BK220822 Karachi Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Dec 86

[Text] A 16-member federal cabinet, including 4 ministers of state, were sworn in at the presidency a short while ago. Their oath of office was administered by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in presence of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. Present on the occasion included the chairman of the senate, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the National Assembly speaker, Mr Hamid Nasir Chatha.

The cabinet ministers and their portfolios are:

Education
Malik Nasim Ahmad
Finance and Economic Affairs
Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto
Food, Agriculture, and Cooperatives
Mohammad Ibrahim Baluch
Foreign Affairs
Sahabzada Yaqub Khan
Housing and Works
Haji Mohammad Hanif Taiyab
Industries
Chaudhury Shujat Hussain
Information and Broadcasting
Qazi Abdul Majid Abid
Interior
Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak
Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
Wasim Sajjad Jan
Local Government and Rural Development
Anwar Aziz Chaudhury
States, Frontier Regions, and Kashmir Affairs
Syed Qasim Shah
Minister Without Portfolio
Iqbal Ahmad Khan

Ministers of state and their portfolios are:

Health Division
Sardar Ghulam Mohammad Mahar
Special Education and Social Welfare
Aksar Faza Kazarbash
Foreign Affairs
Zain Noorani
Railways
Nisar Mohammad Khan

Karachi Press Note on Police Shooting, Situation

BK191545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi local administration this evening says the overall situation in Karachi was normal today. Some people violated curfew restrictions, and law enforcing agencies fired at them after giving due warning, injuring two persons. According to the local administration, curfew will be relaxed in Karachi Districts East and West from 0700 to 0930 [0200-0430 GMT] and from 1400 to 1700. Of course, in Jet Line area curfew will be relaxed from 0700 to 0930 only.

Curfew was relaxed in Hyderabad and Latifabad from 1200 to 1600. During curfew relaxation some processions were taken out in Hyderabad and Latifabad areas. There were some incidents of stone throwing and burning tires but there was no report of any untoward incident in the city. The Hyderabad local administration has announced that curfew will be relaxed from 0800 to 1000 and from 1500 to 1700 tomorrow.

Situation in Karachi 'Improved'; Curfew Relaxed

BK210640 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 21 Dec 86

[Text] The situation in Karachi has significantly improved following the lifting of curfew in some areas and the day-long relaxation of curfew restrictions in some other areas of the city. Public and private transportation services have increased and business establishments and the stock exchange have reopened after having remained closed since last week. Attendance in offices and banks increased and consumer goods supplies in the city are also improving. Meanwhile, businessmen and industrialists of the city have set up a special fund to provide financial and other aid to affected families.

Meanwhile, curfew restrictions in curfew-bound areas of Karachi were relaxed for longer periods today. In Orangi, the curfew was relaxed from 0700-1100 [0200-0600 GMT] this morning and will again be relaxed from 1400-1700 this evening. In the remaining areas of District West, curfew has been relaxed from 0700-1700, while in District East, the curfew was relaxed from 0700-1100 and will again be relaxed from 1400-1700 today. In Sohrab Goth, the curfew was relaxed from 0700-0900 and will again be relaxed 1600-1700 in the afternoon. In the Jet Lines area, the curfew relaxation was from 0700-0900 and will again be given from 1500-1700 in the afternoon. In Hyderabad, a 10-hour curfew relxation has been in effect since 0700 this morning.

Indian Interior Secretary Arrives for Talks

BK191219 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Text] The Indian interior secretary, Mr C. G. Somiah, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 3-day visit. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the Indian interior secretary said his talks with his Pakistani counterpart would center on drug trafficking, smuggling, and illegal border crossing. He said they would discuss and analyze the problems and try to sort them out in a friendly atmosphere to dispel the doubts. He expressed the hope that these talks would lead to positive results and clear the air of suspicion that exists between the two countries.

The Pakistani interior secretary, Mr S. K. Mahmud, said they would utilize the opportunity to arrive at certain concrete proposals to further the process of normalization so that the two countries could live in harmony and peace.

Begins Discussions

BK201639 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] Pakistan-India talks on cooperation in steps to check drug trafficking along the borders, smuggling, illegal border crossing, and terrorism began in Lahore today. The two sides had a frank, cordial, and detailed exchange of views. The Pakistani delegation at the talks is led by Interior Secretary S. K. Mahmud, and the Indian side by Indian Home Secretary C. G. Somiah.

Joint Statement Issued

BK211642 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Dec 86

[Text] Pakistan and India have reiterated their resolve to establish good neighborly relations on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence. This has been stated in a joint statement issued after 2 days of talks between the interior secretaries of the two countries in Lahore. The talks went round in pursuance of the decision reached by the prime ministers of Pakistan and India at their meeting in Bangalore last month. The statement said both sides agreed that a solution of the problems could be found on the basis of good faith and mutual trust. They also reaffirmed the commitment of their governments to the Simla Agreement. On an issue raised by the Indian home secretary the Pakistani interior secretary reiterated that Pakistan is opposed to all forms of terrorism and does not and will not provide any support to terrorist activities directed against India. The Indian home secretary gave a similar assurance in this context.

The two sides discussed the entire range of illegal cross border movement and specific remedial measures. They recognized that illegal crossing and terrorism have become closely interlinked with each other. They decided to strengthen cooperation between their Border Security Forces in order to control illegal border crossing. The statement says the two secretaries reviewed the situation on the ground as it exists along the border and agreed that the ground rules evolved in 1960-61 need to be reformulated. They agreed to constitute a joint committee to study the two draft proposals on (? their) behalf which had been exchanged in 1981/82 by the two sides and expeditiously draft new ground rules for consideration of the two governments. Both sides welcomed the decision taken at the second SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit for the establishment of a technical committee on prevention of drug abuse and drug trafficking in the region. They also reaffirmed their determination to combat this evil on a bilateral level within the framework of the joint minsiterial commission.

Departs Lahore 21 Dec

BK220420 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1700 GMT 21 Dec 86

[Text] Indian Home Secretary C. G. Somiah, who had come on a 3-day visit to Pakistan heading a 6-member delegation, left Lahore for New Delhi this evening. During his stay in Pakistan, the Indian home secretary held talks with his Pakistani counterpart. Talking to newsmen before departure, the Indian home secretary described the talks as cordial, frank, and sincere. In a joint statement issued after the talks, Pakistan and India have reaffirmed their resolve to establish good-neighborly relations based on principles of peaceful coexistence.

7 Killed in DRA Bombing of Parachinar

OW200005 Tokyo KYODO in English 0002 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 19 KYODO — Seven members of a wedding party including three women were killed in a bombing raid in the Parachinar area carried out by four Afghan jets Thursday, officials here said.

The Afghan jets dropped bombs over the villages of Nara and Piakai, 10 miles north of Parachinar and 250 kilometers west of Islamabad, killing four men and three women of the Mengai tribe attending a marriage party. Houses many homes [as received] were also damaged in the raid.

News of the Afghan aerial attack and casualties was reported by runners from the bombed border area to Parachinar Friday.

The Parachinar area, crisscrossed by passes used by the guerrillas to infiltrate into Afghanistan has been a frequent target of bombing and shelling by the Afghan forces.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Urges Release of Frozen Assets

LD191746 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tehran Dec. 18 IRNA — Majlis Speaker and substitute leader of Friday congregational prayers Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Friday that once the U.S. Government should release the entirety of Iranian assets in the U.S. banks and elsewhere, the Islamic Government would then intercede with the Shi'ite groups in Lebanon for the release of the American hostages in that country.

The hojjat ol-eslam, who was sermonizing to a multitudinous group of worshippers at the compounds of Tehran University campus at noon time Friday, elsewhere reflected on Washington's advances to Iran and McFarlane's abortive visit to Tehran as betraying both malicious designs by Washington and signifying frustration in its eight-year-long challenge to the Islamic Government.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said relations between Tehran-Washington may never be resumed solely upon the will of Washington. He said as long Washington should offer to resume relations with Tehran, no such request will be honoured by Tehran.

Majlis speaker said in the wake of the abortive visit to Tehran by McFarlane in November, Washington has exploited a sophisticated propaganda machinery against the Islamic Government for suggesting, among other ideas, that the Islamic Republic is not that much against the United States as it pretends to be, or that behind the curtains the Islamic Government has tried to establish some sort of contact with the United States.

The substitute leader of Tehran Friday congregations said the scandalous visit to Tehran by McFarlane last month which continues to devote headlines to itself in the international media may in all likelihood become "Washington's blunder of the year or even perhaps its grossest blunder in the contemporary century."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Washington, which foresees Iran's eventual victory in the Iraq-Iran war as an unpreventable development, now intends to make good on its lost battle with the Islamic Government by suggesting to the world that the Iranian victory in the war with Iraq is owed principally to the U.S. weapons in the absence of which Iran would have lost the war to the Iraqi Government.

The substitute leader of Friday congregational prayers criticized Washington for its indiscreet and miscalculated advance to Tehran, saying in part that the imprudent move by the U.S. government has:

"1. Made it clear that the United States is repenting for its (past) stances towards and its enmity with the Islamic Republic since it just now realizes that its policies have only worked against the United States and for the Islamic Republic.
"2. Demonstrated the defeat of the United States and of the West in their confrontation with the Islamic Republic... which is true despite their severance of relations with and their economic sanctions against Iran and despite their various plots, and political assassinations and also despite the embroiling Iran in an unwanted war....
"3. Proved that the United States has suffered a defeat even in its endeavours to resume relations with us...which is even acknowledged by top men in Reagan's administration.
"4. Engaged in unconstitutional, illegal, and uncommon means for resumption of relations. The United States, which always pretended that it would never bring itself to bribing a Third World country did bribe us in relation to Lebanon, which fact I now openly declare to the world, and to the Americans.
"5. Proved that the U.S. Government had forged Irish documents and also disguised an aircraft to look like an Irish aircraft and also disguised its crew to look like Irish stewards....
"6. Proved that the U.S. Government has smuggled weapons and that it exploited arms smugglers... while tens of people are serving prison terms in the United States and others being tried on the same charges in the United States...
"7. Brought to surface the difference within the ranks of U.S. officials and between them and leaders of Western countries.
"8. Proved the vulnerability of the West in its confrontation with revolutionary nations.
"9. Proved that the U.S. cooperates with Iraq.

"10. Proved that Israel is an infamous entity, our enemies suggesting (Iran's) intimacy with that regime as a smear campaign against the Islamic Government.
"11. Made Reagan concede that during the past 18 months he has seen no evidence implying Iran's engagement in terroristic acts.
"12. That the enemies of the Islamic Revolution are mercenaries. Madani and Bakhtiar have confessed to having received aid from the CIA...
"13. Proved that the two superpowers do not wish to see the end of the (Iraq-Iran) war but that they wish to see continued conflict.

Elsewhere in his sermon, the Majlis speaker criticized the Baghdad regime for refusing to abide by the dictates of OPEC, saying that the Iraqi politicians only "respond to the dictates of the world arrogance." He said it is common knowledge that the Baghdad government is not able to produce even as much as its assigned quota and noted that its demands for doubling its quota is solely a move for throwing a stumbling block on the way of the Organization of Oil-Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The hojjat ol-eslam appreciated the stance of the Saudi Government in the current session of OPEC and expressed hope that the on-going meeting of OPEC oil ministers in Geneva would turn out a success.

More on Majlis Speaker Sermon

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1600 GMT on 19 December 1986 broadcasts a 30-minute sermon by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, delivered at the Friday prayers session held at Tehran University.

In his sermon, which was monitored in progress from very poor reception, Hashemi-Rafsanjani says: "Well, although you have already implied it, you should be more explicit: Admit that you

have made a mistake in breaking relations with Iran; admit you made a mistake in turning your embassy into a den of espionage in the early days of the revolution; admit you made a mistake in returning Mohammad Reza Pahlavi here; say you made a mistake in strengthening the counterrevolution in Iran; admit you made a mistake in ordering Iraq to start the war; admit you made a mistake in telling the regional reactionaries to help Iraq financially; say you made a mistake in making use of your spies in favor of Iraq; that you made a mistake in supplying information to Iraq via your satellites and AWACs against Iran."

Rafsanjani then continues his sermon along the same line. Addressing the United States, he says: "You do realize that you have vast interests in the Persian Gulf; you also realize that no one but Iran can safeguard the Gulf's interests and security. Then why not (?tell it to your own people?). It has now become apparent that these people, in order to safeguard their own positions, would trample on their country's interests."

Alluding to clashes of interests in the West, Hashemi-Rafsanjani adds "Needless to say, we do possess even more confidential information in this regard which we (?are not going to divulge now). The fact is that the Western countries are competing against each other to establish closer ties with us. This follows the revelation about America's attempts." The Majlis speaker then cites the arrogant attitude of the United States against other nations.

Referring to big powers' influence throughout the world, Hashemi-Rafsanjani says: "The United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia — all of them — have so many agents throughout the world. Wherever they take any step against our interests, we too will reciprocate here. If they arrest an Iranian there, we will arrest an American here. If we do not find an American, then we would arrest a French citizen. They lie. Only when one treats them as they treat others will they come to their senses — they are vulnerable. Another issue — an issue which they refused to admit until recently — is America's cooperation with Iraq. Actually they were forced to admit it. Why? Because Arab countries were angry with the United States for its intention of establishing relations with us. They knew full well that there was no question of any arms deal. Nevertheless, the very attempt being made by the United States to attract our friendship was demoralizing to them." Hashemi-Rafsanjani then elaborates on the use of satellites by the United States and the supplying of information to Iraq.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterates Iran's adherence to its own principles, calling it Point 11. Elsewhere in his sermon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani praises Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and the system of rule by jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] advising: "I beleive that Mr Reagan and his colleagues should start thinking about velayat-e faqih for their future." Having said that, he makes a comparison between the two systems and then goes on to cite the attitudes of both the United States and the USSR on the war, that they do not wish to see Iran triumph.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then says: "The (11th) point that was discovered was: The Americans, despite their inquisitorial attitude, despite their satellites, spies, the CIA and the rest, are so immensely uninformed about our region; how uninformed they are about our internal affairs; how many half-baked analyses do they intend to make? They kept investing in the trivial matters and issues in our country, believing that the leadership, the administration, and the officials have risen against each other. Well, later we all saw that everything was in vain following the statement issued by Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. The final point that was revealed is the discourtesy shown by the Americans and Western peoples to their leaders. You noticed how offensive the Americans were to this unfortunate old man. Well, let us remember, this gentleman is very old; he is 77 or 78 years old. As we say in this country, his days are numbered. He has shaky legs. They called him an imbecile, an idiot, incompetent, uninformed. Well, they lack any discretion to show courtesy toward their elders."

Continuing his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani alludes to an earlier point: "We repeat what we have already stated. What is possible for us and the United States is for America to unfreeze our frozen assets. This was an illegal act of bullying and banditry. The United States must return our assets. Once the United States takes this step, then we would ask our Shi'ite brethren in Lebanon to free the U.S. hostages, as we do have some prestige amongst them." Hashemi-Rafsanjani then notes Iran's achievement in restoring a cease-fire in Lebanon, because of this very prestige. He Says that Iran can achieve a great deal in Lebanon, provided the United States refrains from establishing relations with Iran.

Concluding his sermon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani recalls a story: "There was a group of learned and scholarly theologians in Qom, including martyr Ayatollah Haj Aqa Mostafa Ayatollah Zadeh and others. The members of this group were our elders. This group used to travel on Thursdays and Fridays. An individual who was not a member of the group — a man who until recently was a member of the Council of Guardians — wanted to accompany them. They told him only on one condition. He answered that he would submit to any terms. They told him the first condition is for you to stay at home and not to accompany us. That is what we are saying to the United States. [laughter] If you want to be good to us, the first condition is: Don't be good to us. Try not to pursue this matter of establishing relations with us. You people are mischievious, you are incongruous. While you claim that you want to help us, one hears that you want to capture our relatives and put them in jail. We are trying to help rescue your hostages, while you intend to hold hostages. You, at any rate, are evil."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then repeats his earlier statement about the unfreezing of Iranian assets as a condition for any possible future talks.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on McFarlane, U.S. Hostages

LD221044 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 22 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA — The Iranian Ambassador to the U.N., Seyyed Rajai'e-Khorassani, in a meeting with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday morning briefed him on international issues and also matters related to the clandestine trip of the former U.S. National Security advisor Robert McFarlane to Tehran.

Rajai'e-Khorassani said that imperialist news networks have been doing their best to cover up the latest U.S. scandal.

The Majlis speaker said that in an appropriate time copies of the passports of those who accompanied McFarlane will be published and possibly other documents will be released "if necessary."

If the U.S. wants to solve its problems in the Middle East, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani added, it should stop bullying and prove that it was not hostile towards us. The U.S. should release the frozen Iranian assets, he said, adding that it is only then that the Islamic Republic of Iran would mediate to release the American hostages from the Lebanese revolutionaries. Of course, he stressed, such a mediation would be effective only when the U.S. met demands of the Lebanese Muslims.

Tehran Comments on Arms Sale 'Propaganda'
LD191646 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0400 GMT 19 Dec 86

["Review of Foreign Radios" program]

[Excerpts] The crisis besetting the U.S. Black House continues to maintain its vast dimensions, and attempts to control it remain fruitless. In the United States of America and Europe, the people, press, and diplomats are not loath to accuse the authorities in the Reagan administration of telling lies. They are specifically charging Reagan and his government apparatus of fraud and deceit.The atmosphere of a lack of confidence and suspicion of mendacity indulged in by Black House officials has severely damaged U.S. prestige, and in effect has paralyzed that country's policy. [passage omitted]

At a time when the Reagan government is being openly charged with lying and hypocrisy, the U.S. and European peoples are ashamed of having been duped by Reagan's antics. The atmosphere of lack of confidence and suspicion is so overwhelming that despite the dismissal of a number of Black House officials, a relentless pressure to remove other pawns continues. Among those placed on such a blacklist is Casey, head of the U.S. espionage and terrorist organization, better known as the CIA. Reagan, too, who has personally modified his true colors for some time now, has joined ranks with those calling for clarifying the facts. He has openly admitted his mistakes and continues to be criticized by both his friends and rivals, so much so that last November was considered the worst month of his presidency. The rapid consecutive developments have shaken and destroyed the position and prestige he gained after 6 years of skullduggery and duplicity.

The most important events that took place during that single month was the defeat of the Republicans in the Congressional elections, tension among U.S. allies, the Congress's anger with the President, the people's dissatisfaction with Reagan's explanations, the dismissal of several high-ranking government figures, the Black House's bewilderment and stupefaction for having lost its self-confidence, provocations by journalists and finally, Reagan's plumetting popularity. Such developments and victories [as heard] can demonstrate how significant the scale of the recent disgrace suffered by the U.S. Black House is following the fiasco of the U.S. Government in its attempts to establish links with the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

What is significant is that despite all Reagan's disreputable deeds and his loss of credibility inside and outside the United States of America, Western affiliated propaganda media are striving to show that Reagan enjoys a relatively better situation thanhis colleagues. The degree of lies and falsehoods engaged in by his associates has been such that this is what is claimed: public opinion polls prove that half the U.S. people believe that despite the fact that Reagan is evil, he is still more honorable than other government officials. This in effect demonstrates the level of the U.S. people's suspicion and lack of confidence in that country's politicians. [passage omitted]

One of the people most deeply suspected is the director of the U.S. espionage and terrorist organization, better known as the CIA. It is said that a two-pronged pressure by U.S. Republicans and Democrats is being exerted for his dismissal. This is at a time when he is currently in the hospital for unknown reasons. The CIA director is only one of the people being pressured, and he is being charged with either incompetence or concealing facts. [passage omitted]

Certain reports claim that Casey, the CIA director, has suffered a seizure, while others claim that he has suffered a heart attack; still others, quoting medical authorities, have disclosed that he contemplated, as it were, committing suicide by taking poison. [passage omitted]

In view of the fact that suicide has social and psychological causes the probable attempt by the head of the U.S. terrorist and espionage organization can better demonstrate the scale of the crisis besetting the U.S. Black House and the helplessness of the U.S. ringleaders following that country's disgraceful fiasco in establishing links with the Islamic Republic. However, putting aside what is actually taking place in the United States of America, the strident propaganda engaged in by world arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran continues on a vast scale. As we recalled in our previous programs, there is particular premeditation in progress to say that the United States is attempting to deliver arms to Iran rather than attempting to establish links with Iran. While such intent probably will always remain as a propaganda ruse aimed at duping public opinion, the tales related in this connection continue unabated. U.S. and Israeli journalists, imparting roles to new imaginary personalities, attempt to maintain the lure of their web of lies. According to the tales concocted so far, a number of European countries, the U.S. government, the Zionist regime, the Philippines, Turkey, Pakistan, and Egypt or other countries, each and everyone of these has played the starring role, for a short or long time. One day they said that Israeli arms were delivered to Iran; another day, instead of Israel, they named a European country; yet on another they claimed, for instance, that either the Philippines or Turkey had carried out such a mission. And now they say Egypt! In all these myths, what has changed and been replaced is the side delegated, as it were, to deliver arms to Iran, while the rest of the tale remains consistent and repetitive as before. [passage omitted]

Musavi Remarks on UK Spies, Other Topics

LD211225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Following this morning's cabinet meeting, which discussed some domestic and international issues, Prime Minister Musavi spoke about the visit to Iran of Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. He said, The interest shown by the officials of both countries to elevate their relations is embedded in the Islamic Revolution. [passage omitted]

The prime minister also spoke about the U.S. officials' admissions and their close intelligence collaboration with the Iraqi Zionist regime in the war against Iran, saying: The open admission made about these facts intensifies our nation's sacred rancor for the U.S. criminals. Today, all the hardships and difficulties suffered by our nation are perpetrated by the United States. We must, therefore, direct all our shouting against the United States. The hands of Yankees are stained with the blood of each of our martyrs. It is therefore ironical that they are shamelessly extending their very blood-stained hands toward us, with a cake and autographed Bible, in order to resume relations.

We have, however, fully understood the United States. That is why we branded their hand appropriately. Musavi added; having recognized the Iraqi regime as a significant element in the implementation of its Middle East policies, the United States is not only engaged in direct intelligence collaboration with that regime, but also it has deceived the USSR, urging it to help its puppet. This mischievous act is not at all less significant than the intelligence cooperation.

The prime minister then added; the pivotal axis in the United States' Middle East policies is to safeguard the Zionist regime. Such close relations between the Iraqi regime and the United States are indicative of the regime's Zionist nature as well as the role played by the Ba'thists in implementing the archsatan's Middle East policies with regard to safeguarding the Qods occupying regime. Musavi continued; they have been trying to frighten us for the past 5 years with the prospect of U.S. intervention in the region if we win this war. We now hear that U.S. interference actually started 2 years ago. However, despite this interference, we are now on the threshold of victory. We now understand more than ever before the meaning of the imam's remark that there is nothing the United States can do. [passage omitted]

At the conclusion of the meeting the prime minsiter had the following to say in reply to a question put to him by our correspondent:

[Begin Musavi recording] At today's meeting we received a report from the Ministry of Information concerning the activities of British spies in Iran. These activities have been rather remarkable. We hope that in subsequent interviews the parts which could be of use may be made available to our people; for they are sensitive about the issue — they have become rather more sensitive in connection with the extensive spy networks which might exist in the country. If we try to get rid of this sensitivity simply because the foundations of the Islamic Revolution have become firm, then, who knows, we might pay dearly for it. Sensitivity regarding the presence of aliens and the nature of intelligence gathering by them as well as their objectives is one of the sacred duties of our system. God willing, some good information will be made available in this regard to our people. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Montazeri Addresses Students, Officials

LD192359 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Excerpts] In Qom yesterday, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri met with a group of students and state officials. [passage omitted] Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred in his speech to the anniversary of the martyrdom of Professor Dr Mohammad Mofatteh, called the Day of Unity between the university and the seminary. He paid tribute to the martyrs before and after the revolution, as well as the martyrs on the front and those from among the clergy and students. He said:

Under the previous regime colonialism contrived to split the clergy and students and to prevent them from having the same voice or empathy. Colonialism wanted them to be hostile toward each other and to be alienated from one another in order to dominate both sections and to gain control over the country. In order to dominate both sections and to gain control over the country. But thanks to the blessings of the Islamic Revolution and the leadership of the leader of the revolution, this attitude of hostility and conflict was eliminated. Now we can see how these two sections have become united and how they work side by side for Islam, for the revolution, and for their country. [passage omitted]

The grand ayatollah stressed: We should not think of ourselves as small or without dignity, or feel inferior in comparison with foreigners. Our youths' ability and talent are not inferior to others. They are, rather, much superior to most. Just look at America before its discovery by Christopher Colombus and the barbaric state it was in then. Later, however, it developed and reached the state it is in now. One wishes it had not been discovered because the world today would not be plunged into its fire. At any rate, our youths should strive to take full advantage of the present climate of opportunities. [passage omitted]

The grand ayatollah also stressed the importance of commitment and raising the level of spirituality in universities. He said: if we want to prevent universities from becoming centers of activity by deviationists and eclectic minigroups, we should, while drawing the students' attention to the country's political and revolutionary issues, devote greater attention to spiritual and esoteric matters. This is precisely the purpose of our sending representatives to the universities. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the revelations occasionally put about at universities and to crushing of individuals' status. He said: Every individual is liable to make mistakes. It is possible that after many mistkaes an individual may repent. Individuals should not be shunned forever.

He then noted that despite the utmost importance the warfronts command — something which should always be borne in mind

— the universities, in their own right, are also a powerful front. this should not be ignored. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri added: You should not worry about shortcomings which are being felt as a result of the war. The position of Muslims at the dawn of Islam was far worse than our and your position today. Nevertheless, under the banner of the prophet, may God's blessings and peace be upon him and his scion, they stood their ground until, eventually, Islam advanced in the world. [passage omitted]

Most exalted God willing, this imposed war will end with a victory for the combatants of Islam, and the country's resources will be devoted to greater development of the country and of the country's scientific institutions and universities. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Prime Minister Continues Visit

Participates in Friday Prayers

LD191715 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Text] Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi took part in today's Friday prayers ceremonies in Tehran. After the speech by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a short speech during the prayers addressed to the worshippers, he said:

The relations between us are permanent relations determined by God Almighty, and, just as the Holy Koran has graciously commanded, the faithful are brothers. After Islam's assault by the desires of others, once again Islamic thought has started to stir, thereby bringing in its wake a great deal of blessings.

The Sudanese prime minister said: The Islamic movement, which is based on rising and submitting to God's word and terminating subservience, is bonding our two nations together, thanks to these conceptions, since our ideological school is the same; our Koran is the same; and our Prophet is the same. And now we should establish new relations in accordance with present problems and insight into the future. We have not come to conduct talks on interests and political problems; rather, the main reason for our presence in your country is establishing unity among Muslims!

In connection with the struggles waged by the people of his country, Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said: In our country a king who was the friend of the shah of Iran was overthrown, since both of them used to impose wrongdoing and corruption on the people. Therefore, despite such problems, we should jointly act toward the realization of common objectives!

Opens New Embassy

LD191738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Text] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and defense minister of Sudan, who is heading a high-ranking politico-economic and cultural delegation on a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning inaugurated the Embassy of the Republic of Sudan in Tehran.

According to our correspondent's report, this ceremony was attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, the deputy prime minister for political affairs, a group of political officials of both countries, as well as ambassadors and political representatives of foreign countries in Tehran. At the conclusion of the inauguration ceremony, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was interviewed by reporters. He said that the inauguration of the Sudanese Embassy in Tehran is a positive step in strengthening and expanding relations between the two countries. As a condemnation of the policies of the Numayri regime, the present state of bilateral relations is a suitable basis for consolidating relations between the two countries. He stated: The foreign policy of Sudan is currently based on a nonaligned and independent policy. Our intention is to expand relations with Islamic, Arab, and African countries, and to establish various grounds for cooperation with these countries.

Continuing this interview, the Sudanese prime minister expressed the hope that Sudan may be able to base its foreign relations on the goal of advancing peace and international cooperation. He considered that this trip and the talks carried out with the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials have provided the best opportunity for establishing a framework of bilateral cooperation, and felt that the most important objective of this trip has been the exchange of opinion and discussion on the necessity for Islamic unity. He said: In these discussions and their continuation, the foundations for the achievement of this objective will be established.

In connection with the actions of some individuals who are trying to create factionalism and tension within the nation by broaching the question of ethnicity and such things as differences between Arabs and Persians or Shi'ite's and Sunnis, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stated: The superpowers and the enemies of Islam in the region, especially Zionism, take advantage of these existing contradictions and differences of opinions. Our duty is to prevent the enemies of Islam from taking advantage and benefiting from this, through friendship and the strengthening of our relations.

In reply to a question about the war imposed against Iran, the Sudanese prime minister rejected the point that Sudan intends to act as intermediary in the war. He stated: The question of the war is a great problem, and we are ready to obtain a correct understanding of Iran's stances so that we may assess what Sudan could do in order to establish Islamic justice.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD191747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Text] Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the high-ranked delegation accompanying him, met with Speaker of the the Islamic Consultative Assembly Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday afternoon.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi referred to the ever increasing strength of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and stressed the need for continuous expansion of relations between the two countries. He explained: We knew from the start that the repugnant enemies do not want the Islamic Revolution to continue and that they are always trying to trip up the revolution in order to bring about its

downfall. He thanked God that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to overcome many of its problems and to strengthen its bases. The prime minister of Sudan reminded that relations between the two countries is not confined to the framework of existing politico-diplomatic relations but that a genuine intellectual and religious dimension exists which binds the two countries and the two revolutions together.

He said: We speak from the basis of our belief in Islam and we know that the warmongering powers are trying to delay our movement or to defeat it. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stated: We are trying to explain Islam to the world and to introduce Islam as a power that grants justice to all the deprived and condemns dependency on foreigners everywhere. We both think the same on this issue.

He also stressed the expansion of commercial and economic relations and other areas based on common religions and cultures and expressed hope that the two coutnries, may, by relying on the many things they share in common and, through the realization of collaboration and problems common to both countries, arrive at their objectives.

Then Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke. He said: Throughout African history, Sudan has always carried weight and it can still be important. We believe that if an invulnerable Islamic Revolution base can be established in Sudan, it can play an effective role in Africa and in the world of Islam. We saw nothing good in the rule of the previous regime in Sudan, and even the Islamic slogans that were brought out by the previous regime caused us anxiety. But now we have much hope of Sudan's ability to fulfill its role.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani explained that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been waiting for an opportunity to strengthen its relations with Sudan so that it can fulfill its Islamic duty toward Sudan and Africa. He said: In spite of the fact that the war has created problems for us, nevertheless we feel that we have the strength to see to other problems. We consider your excellency's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran as a good opportunity and we hope that we can cooperate with each other over various issues. We have no doubt that there exist enough common points between us for this cooperation so that we can utilize the resources of both countries toward achievement of the objectives of the two revolutions.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly stressed: Both Westerners and Easterners are afraid of genuine Islam. He continued: If you are seeking a superficial Islam you will not have too many problems, but you will have serious problems if you want to implement your perception and understanding of Islam as a revolutionary and resistant Muslim . If you are genuine Muslims, then neighbors such as Egypt will certainly not leave you alone. In any case, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready for profound cooperation with those Islamic countries which want to be genuinely Muslim in accordance with their religion.

In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the expansion of bilateral relations and the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to place its successful experiences throughout the victory of the Islamic Revolution at the disposal of Sudan. He expressed hope that the people and government of Sudan may be able to solidify their revolution, and to make their enemies despair by eliminating domestic and foreign problems.

Meets With Musavi

LD201738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] [Passage indistinct] Our country's prime minister explained: We believe that the Israel problem can be solved through an Islamic solution, and overcoming the usurping Israel cannot be attained except through an Islamic solution.

The prime minister emphasized: The agreements reached during this meeting demonstrate the depth of our progress toward lofty Islamic aspirations; this in itself constitutes a valuable historic step, and we hope to see the effects of this valuable movement in relations with the Third World countries.

According to this report, Prime Minister of Sudan Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, while expressing thanks for the hospitality of the Muslim Iranian people, expressed his pleasure at becoming acequainted with the achievements of the Islamic Revolution, and expounded his views on the achievements of Iran's Islamic Revolution.

The Sudanese prime minister said: In the course of my visit to Iran I witnessed deep changes within the people of your country which, together with the stabilization of the Islamic system in Iran, have strengthened the hearts of world Muslims. The Islamic system has driven its foundations firmly into the ground, and it embodies a rich and fruitful experience for the peoples of the world. Iran's Islamic system, leaning on domestic capabilities during the postrevolutionary years, has been able to set up and administer a government with new economic, popular aspirations, with new ideas, new armed forces, and a new Islamic culture.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said: Despite all the plots hatched and onslaughts carried out against Iran's Islamic Revolution, all those holding the reins of power in the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoy high morale and are optimistically looking toward the future. Iran's Islamic system, leaning on the infinite source of faith and relying on God and on a pious nation, has confronted a great many plots and, by safeguarding its Islamic and independence-seeking viewpoints, has succeeded in distancing itself from the colonialists and in continuing its blessed life.

The Sudanese prime minister also said: These developments show your strong will vis-a-vis the Eastern and Western colonialists powers, which seek to rule the world.

Al- Sadiq al-Mahdi described the achievements of his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran as both valuable and fruitful, and said: We want the relations between Sudan and the Islamic Republic to become an example and model for Islamic countries, and also to increase our cooperation on a regional level compared with the international level.

Emphasizing the need to expand relations between the two nations and to exchange political, economic, and cultural delegations between the two countries, the Sudanese prime minister

invited Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to pay an official visit to Sudan, expressing the hope that he would soon be his host in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan.

In conclusion, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, emphasizing the significance of exchanging delegations at various levels between the two countries, expressed thanks for Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi's invitation to visit Sudan, and expressed the hope that he would visit Sudan as soon as the opportunity arose.

According to this report, during this round of talks, also attended by Ayatollahi, minister of mines and metals; Mo'ayyeri, political deputy to the prime minister; a number of deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and officials from the relevant ministries, and Adam Musa Madibu, Sudanese minister of energy and mining, and a number of high-ranking Sudanese officials, the two countries' prime ministers studied the agreements reached and specified the phases for their carrying out these agreements.

Meets With Montazeri

LD201148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudanese prime minsiter and defense minister, accompanied by his entourage yesterday met and held talks with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. During the meeting, which was also attended by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri welcomed Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the delegation accompanying him, and said: I am pleased to meet you in your country, Iran, and in your city, Qom, as you are an Islamic individual, a statesman, and a man coming from a clerical family. The African Continent, which has lived under the oppression of colonialism for years, is now tired of colonial injustice and its salvation lies solely in Islam. It should be noted that if Islam is correctly understood and implemented it fully respects the rights of all the oppressed. It is now felt that the African Continent, after many years of oppression and injustice at the hands of colonialists, is now thirsting for dear Islam. It is our important duty to strive and endeavor as much as we can for the growth and progress of Islam on this continent.

He later stressed: I expect you to advise the Persian Gulf states with which you have contact not to abase and humble themselves before America and Britain. They should not do anything that would pave the way for those two countries to have free access to the Persian Gulf. The United States and Britain have never respected the rights and interests of Muslims.

Regarding the assistance given to Saddam's regime from Persian Gulf states, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri noted: Why don't these governments let Saddam's rotten regime fall so that the Muslim Iraqi nation can bring a suitable regime to power in that country? It should be pointed out that we do not aspire to have a single inch of Iraqi territory. Our objective in this imposed war is to defend Islam, and the Persian Gulf governments should realize that if Saddam continues to stay in power, he will not pity any one of them. He will only pressure tham as much as he can.

Citing a number of verses regarding infidels, Jews, and Christians, and their relationships with the Muslims, he noted the need for Muslims to cut off their ties with them and said: advise the Persian Gulf governments that the threat against Islam and Muslims today comes from the United States, Israel, and other infidel governments. In order to safeguard Islam, Muslims should unite in a strong front against blasphemy.

In conclusion, Prime Minister Musavi briefed Grand Ayatollah Montazeri on the political, economic and development projects which are being implemented by the governments of Iran and Sudan. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri also gave appropriate guidance.

Departs For Home

LD201757 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Sudanese Prime Minister and Defense Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi left Tehran this evening for Khartoum. He was seen off by Prime Minister Musavi; several cabinet ministers and Majlis deputies; a number of our country's political, economic and, cultural officials; and ambassadors and heads of foreign missions in the Islamic Republic. Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi led a high-ranking political, economic, and cultural delegation on a 4-day official visit to Tehran.

During the final stage of the Sudanese delegation's visit to Tehran a political, economic, and cultural protocol was signed between the two countries at Mehrabad Airport. The protocol was signed by Minister of Mines and Metals Ayatollahi for the Islamic Republic, and by the Sudan minister of energy and mines in the presence of the two countries' prime ministers. [passage omitted]

Ship Detained by Italy To Depart 21 Dec

LD210722 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Text] Rome, Dec. 21, IRNA — Captain of the Iranian ship *Iran Jihad* said Saturday that the ship will leave Italian waters Saturday night and refrain from calling at another Italian ports as it was previously scheduled. This, Captain Hoseyn 'Ali Yazdani said, was in protest against unlawful and irresponsible acts of Italian ports authorities in detaining the vessel.

Captain Hoseyn 'Ali Yazdani in a statement said that the ship will leave Italian waters and head for Iran without calling at other Italian port.

Deploring the unfriendly behaviour and illegal treatment of Italian ports authorities, the captain said that such acts were not only in violation of international laws but damaged crediblity of Italian ports officials.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

F-14 Downing Denied

LD191802 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19 IRNA -- An Iranian military source at the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Friday categorically denied Iraq's claim of having downed an Iranian F-14 fighter plane over the Persian Gulf Friday.

Earlier on Friday a spokesman of the Iraqi armed forces claimed that Iraqi war planes had chased and downed one F-14 plane of Iran over the Persian Gulf waters. International news agencies, too, repeatedly reported the Iraqi claim as news.

80 Killed in Bombings

LD211646 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 21 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 21, IRNA — More than 80 civilians were martyred and many others wounded as a result of bombardments of residential quartrs here by Iraqi warplanes Sunday.

The city's inhabited areas were bombarded by enemy fighter bombers three times damaging a number of housing units.

The town of Eslamabad-e Gharbi, in Bakhtaran Province, was also attacked by Iraqi warplanes Sunday causing some civilian casualties.

Meanwhile, following these inhuman attacks, the Islamic Republic of Iran announced Sunday afternoon that it will retaliate by subjecting Iraqi military-industrial areas to long-range artillery fire for 24 hours starting 16:30 GMT Sunday.

'Heavy Shelling' of Iraq Begun

NC220552 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Dec 86

[Text] The combatants of Islam began heavy shelling of all industrial, economic, and military centers in Iraq, except its four safe cities, at 2000 [1630 GMT] in answer to the fresh crimes committed by the Iraqi Zionist regime in attacking our country's residential areas, and thus initiated deterrent and retaliatory operations that will continue for 24 hours.

It should be recalled that during the Zionist Iraqi regime's air raids yesterday on residential areas in the resistant city of Bakhtaran, which resulted in the martyrdom and wounding of a large number of resistant Bakhtaran residents and the destruction of their homes, an official from the War Information Headquarters announced that, in answer to the attacks by the Zionist Iraqi regime on our country's residential areas, the Islamic Republic of Iran will attack all industrial and military centers in Iraqi cities, except its four safe cities.

More Die in Continued Bombing

LD221029 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 22 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec. 22, IRNA — At least 100 civilians were martyred and many others wounded in Iraqi bombing of Eslamabad-e Gharb, southwest of here Monday morning.

Residential areas in the city were savagely bombarded by intruding Iraqi warplanes three times resulting in the martyrdom and wounding of scores of innocent women, children, and elderly people.

The Muslim people of the city along with relief workers immediately rushed to the scene to aid the victims. Efforts to take more possible victims out from under the rubble was still continuing until 10:00 GMT.

Communique No 2690

LD191701 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA — A number of Iraqi warplanes attempting to violate the airspace of Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, at 10:00 hours local time (06:30 hours GMT) Friday were forced to flee by Iranian anti-aircraft fire, said a military communique here.

Communique Number 2690 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iranian Muslim forces continued fortifying their positions and opened heavy artillery and tank fire on Iraqi positions inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Ten Iraqi soldiers were killed in an operational theater in the southern fronts Tnursday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said.

Elsewhere in the southern fronts, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and parts of enemy positions set ablaze by Iranian artillery fire Thursday. Enemy troops were also prevented from fortifying their positions.

The military communique furthermore said that convoys of Iranian patrols gathered intelligence on key Iraqi positions in Marivan, Piranshahr, and Sardasht operational theaters, northwestern fronts, Thursday setting fire to several enemy gun emplacements.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi armoured units in Badrah, Nahr 'Anbar, Eynkhosh and Yebis on Thursday set ablaze a number of enemy tanks and halted enemy operations, according to the communique.

Elsewhere, the communique said that reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Panjwin, northwestern fronts, as well as movements of enemy tanks in Kelaleh, southern fronts, were checked by Iranian forces Thursday.

Iranian forces shelled an Iraqi armoured unit in the southern operational theater of Helaleh Thursday silencing enemy tank fire and forcing it to change its positions, said the communique.

According to the Joint Staff Communique, Iranian Muslim combatants checked reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters and disrupted enemy logistical operations in Mehran and Naft-e Shah, western fronts, Thursday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts Thursday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin.

Communique No 2691

LD201720 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and several enemy tanks, bunkers and observation posts as well as several vehicles of theirs were destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian forces throughout the fronts Friday, said a military communique here Saturday.

Communique number 2691 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's armed forces said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces maintained their fire superiority over Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts Friday killing or wounding a number of enemy troops and setting afire several bunkers and observation posts of theirs. One enemy tank was also destroyed.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts friday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin operational theaters as a result of which heavy casualties were inflicted on Iraqi troops and several enemy tanks were (?destroyed).

The military communique furthermore said that several Iraqi vehicles were destroyed in the southern fronts by Iranian artillery fire Friday. In Kushk operational region, enemy troops were prevented from fortifying their positions. In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces despite bad weather checked movements of Iraqi vehicle columns and opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them.

Two convoys of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Bejliyeh and Pich-e Angizeh southern fronts Friday suffered several casualties and were forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

Communique No 2692

LD211619 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 21 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 21, IRNA — A large number of civilians were martyred or wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed several residential areas in the western Iranian city of Bakhtaran at 09:00 and 12:55 hours GMT Sunday. Heavy damage was also inflicted on the city, said a Military Communique here.

Communique Number 2692 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's armed forces said that Iraqi forces suffered some casualties and losses in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants throughout the fronts Saturday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Saturday killing a number of enemy soliders and destroying at least 10 gun emplacements and two command jeeps of theirs. A convoy of enemy patrols sustained some casualties and was forced to flee in Qasr-e Shirin Saturday as it was shelled by the Iranian Gendarms.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts (?saturday raging) somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Naft-e Shah where enemy positions were pounded and their engineering operations halted. In Kani-Sheykh, operations of Iraqi infantry units were suppressed.

Iraqi soldiers sustained considerable casualties and losses when their positions were shelled by Iranian forces in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts.

In the southern fronts, parts of Iraqi patrols in Hajj 'Umran operational theater, northwestern fronts, Saturday inflicting heavy casulaties on them and forcing them to retreat.

Iranian forces prevented Iraqi troops from fortifying their positions in Sharhani and Bejliyeh, southern fronts, and silenced enemy tank fire elsewhere in areas overlooking Khorramshahr and Yebis Saturday. Enemy engineering operations were also halted, the communique said.